

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 HA-05
/100 W

-----064628 031722Z /53

R 020857Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9587
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

UNCLAS DACCA 3520

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : PINT BG
SUBJECT : THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; JATIYATABADI FRONT ELECTION
MANIFESTO

REF: DACCA 3495

1. THE JATIYATABADI FRONT (JF) OF PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN
JUNE 1ST ISSUED AN ELECTION MANIFESTO (REFTEL) THAT SUM-
MARIZED THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GOALS OF ZIA'S ADMIN-
ISTRATION. IN POLITICAL MATTERS, THE MANIFESTO CALLS FOR
THE DEFEAT OF THE "AWAMI-BAKSALITES" IN ORDER TO ESTA-
BLISH A STABLE DEMOCRACY AND TO PRESERVE NATIONAL INDE-
PENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. THE MANIFESTO, ECHOING ZIA'S
CAMPAIGN RHETORIC, DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE BAKSALITE
"REIGN OF TERROR," CORRUPTION, KILLING AND LOOTING "IN
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THE EARLIEST YEARS OF BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE. THE MANI-
FESTO ENUMERATED SPECIFIC POLITICAL GOALS AS:

A) THE FOURTH AMENDMENT WILL BE REPEALED AND PROVISION
MADE WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRE-
SIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER. DECEMBER POLLS WILL ELECT A
"SOVEREIGN PARLIAMENT" WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO ENACT LAWS,

APPROVE BUDGET, IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT, APPROVE ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, DETERMINE THE SYSTEM OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT AND MANNER OF THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION;

B) EQUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS AND RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE, TO ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, CASTE OR SEX:

C) EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER LAW:

D) PROVISION TO REMOVE ALL "ANTI-PEOPLE LAWS," INCLUDING REMOVAL OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION;

E) REMOVAL OF MARTIAL LAW AFTER CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT COMES INTO EXISTENCE;

F) THE RELEASE OF ALL "PATRIOTIC POLITICAL PRISONERS" AND SPEEDY REVIEW OF CASES OF THOSE POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRESTED BY THE "FORMER REGIME."

2. IN ECONOMIC MATTERS, THE 19-POINT PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT ZIA IN LAST YEAR'S REFERENDUM WILL BE FOLLOWED. ON SPECIFIC POINTS, THE MANIFESTO CALLS FOR:

A) LAND REFORM, MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND, INTRODUCTION OF COOPERATIVES;
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B) FAIR PRICE FOR CASH CROPS TO FARMERS AND EASY LOAN TERMS FOR SEEDS AND FERTILIZER;

C) "HEAVY" INDUSTRY WILL REMAIN NATIONALIZED WHILE ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN TO PRIVATE SECTOR INDUSTRIES;

D) NATIONAL PAY SCALES WILL BE RESTRUCTURED;

C) LABOR LAWS WILL BE RECAST TO INSURE FORMATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

3. IN OTHER DOMESTIC MATTERS, THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM WILL BE RESTRUCTURED TO EMPHASIZE TECHNICAL AND PRODUCTION-ORIENTED STUDIES. WOMEN'S EDUCATION WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION. PROPER HONOR WILL BE GIVEN TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROCURED FOR THE ARMED FORCES. TRIBAL PEOPLES WILL BE GIVEN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

4. IN FOREIGN POLICY, THE JF FRONT WILL SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT AND NONALIGNED POLICY AND GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FIGHT

AGAINST IMPERIALISM, HEGEMONISM AND EXPANSIONISM. SPECIAL
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES WILL BE MAINTAINED AND
SUPPORT WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE PALESTINIAN, RHODESIAN AND
SOUTH AFRICAN "NATIONALISTS."
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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